



R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT
OF

M E R E & T I S B U R Y

For the year ended 31st December, 1944



SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS:-

Medical Officer of Health:- G. NAPIER, B.Sc. (Hons.)
M.B., Ch. B. D.P.H. (R.C.P. & S.)
C.T.M. & H.

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Sanitary Inspectors:- T.A. BROWN, A.R.S.I., C.M. & F.I.
A.D.G. GOOLD, M.I.M.C.E., M.S.I.A.,

Telephones:-

Offices - MERE 318
House - HINDON 247

R E P O R T

for the year ended December, 1944,
on Public Health Matters in the
Rural District of Mere and Tisbury.

Statistics and Description of Area

Area 71,319 acres

Population (1931 census) 10,856

Estimated Dec. 1944. 11,260

No. of Inhabited Houses 3,310

Rateable Value £47,269

Product of a Penny Rate £180

No. of Houses built by Local Authorities NIL

The area is almost entirely agricultural, most of the inhabitants being interested directly or indirectly in agriculture.

The parish of Mere and the parish of Tisbury are both urban in character, but neither contains any large factories or other industrial premises.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

<u>Births</u>		Male	Female	Total
Live Births:	Legitimate	87	92	179
	Illegitimate	9	8	17
Still Births:	Legitimate	3	2	5
	Illegitimate	0	0	0

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
69	78	147

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 17.4

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 24

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 13

Deaths in connection with childbirth: Puerperal Sepsis 0

Other Puerperal Causes 0

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INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	<u>45</u>
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	<u>1</u>
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	<u>0</u>

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health -

G. NAPIER

Batchelor of Science (with Honours); Batchelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma in Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (England); Certificate of the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (London).

The Medical Officer of Health devotes the whole of his time to Public Health work and is also the Medical Officer to the Wilton Borough Council and the Salisbury and Wilton R.D.C.

Sanitary Inspectors -

T.A. BROWN (Senior Inspector)

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Certificates - Royal San. Institute & Sanitary Inspectors' Exam.
Jnt. Board (Sanitary Inspector)

Royal Sanitary Institute (Inspector of Meat and other foods)

Mr. Brown has been on active service since 1939.

A.D.G. GOOLD (Acting Senior Inspector)

Member of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers.

Certificates - Royal Sen. Institute & Sanitary Inspectors' Exam.
Jnt. Board (Sanitary Inspector)

Royal Sanitary Institute (a) Inspector of Meat and other Foods. (b) Smoke Inspector.

The Sanitary Inspector holds the appointment (inter alia) of Surveyor and Petroleum Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector has no clerical assistance.

NURSING

There are Nursing Associations throughout the district supported by Local Nursing Associations. These work well and there has been little to find fault with in this service during the year. The nurses undertake home nursing and maternity cases.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Examination of swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria, and samples of water, etc. are despatched to the Salisbury Infirmary Laboratory for analysis and report. The service given is prompt and efficient.

HOSPITAL SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR THE AREA

- (1) Infectious Fevers. Joint Districts Isolation Hospital, Old Sarum.
- (2) General Cases. General Infirmary, Salisbury.
- (3) Children. There is a Convalescent Home under the County Council available for debilitated children (Marlborough).
- (4) Maternity. Beds are available at Salisbury Infirmary.
- (5) Venereal Disease. Salisbury Infirmary Clinic.
- (6) Tuberculosis. Winsley Sanatorium and Harnwood Hospital take the majority of cases; beds are also to be had through the County Council at Savernake and Alton, or at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.
- (7) Chronic Sick. Provision is arranged for these cases.
- (8) Orthopædic. Bath Orthopædic Hospital.
- (9) Mental Cases. Special schools outside the County, or other County Institutions through the County Council; e.g. Pewsey Colony.
- (10) (Puerperal Fever) Arrangements are made and
(Puerperal Pyrexia) consultations offered by the
(Opthalmia Neonatorum) County Council.
- (11) Ear, Nose and Throat cases. Salisbury Infirmary.

HOSPITAL SERVICE AS A WHOLE

There are no hospitals or nursing homes in the area itself and none are necessary, the present arrangements being satisfactory and the area well served. Full advantage is taken of hospital treatment.

Salisbury Infirmary is equipped to deal with operative surgical cases, has special departments for all specialised work, and contains an up-to-date pathological laboratory. There are no maternity or nursing homes in the area. The maternal mortality is as it was last year - nil. There is no special local provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children or homeless children.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

(1) Infant Welfare. Centres are provided in the area run by a committee of ladies supported by voluntary contributions, by the payment of a small fee, and by a subsidy. Ante-natal work is also carried out.

(2) Other Clinics. There are in Salisbury available for and used by this district a Tuberculosis Dispensary, Venereal Diseases Clinic, and an Orthopædic Centre provided by the County Council.

There is no school clinic for the district, neither are there day nurseries or light clinics.

TRANSPORT - Ambulance Facilities.

(1) Infectious Cases. Joint Districts Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

(2) Non-infectious and accident cases, etc. Salisbury Fire Brigade have an ambulance which is hired. An arrangement has recently been made with the St. John's Ambulance Association to deal with transport of cases of general illness.

ANNUAL REPORT

Sanitary Circumstances

I. Main Drainage

1. Mere - The town is sewered by 6,133 yards of sewer varying from 6" to 18" forming the main scheme, and 1,203 yards of sewer with a separate outfall. The system is combined. There are no plans or constructional details of the sewerage system filed in the Surveyor's Office. There was one sewer connection made and one new manhole construction during the year. No new extensions or alterations were carried out in 1944, and the disposal works are still out of date and heavily overloaded, and in great need of extension.
2. Tisbury - The town is sewered by 3,530 yards of sewer varying from 4" to 12". The system is partially separate but only to the extent that certain highway sewers discharge separately into the river. Two new connections were made during 1944. The disposal works are both out of date and overloaded, and the system exceedingly difficult to maintain with a shortage of labour. A new site should be considered for the disposal works rather than make extensions on the existing site so that considerably more of Tisbury parish and the adjoining parishes can be drained by one scheme. There are no plans or details of the sewers filed in the Surveyor's Office.
3. Hindon - A length of sewer is laid each side of the High Street and the sewage is treated in tanks and by subsoil irrigation. The system is combined but some highway surface water is discharged separately. One new manhole was constructed in 1944. A considerable nuisance is caused by the outfall of this system. Weekly attention helps to reduce the nuisance but the system of tanks and land drains is quite inadequate to purify the sewage discharged. There are no plans or details of the sewers filed in the Surveyor's Office.
4. There are private sewerage schemes at Maiden Bradley, Zeals, and Milton, East Knoyle. A proposal has been made to vest the Milton sewer in the Local Authority but it has not yet been adopted.
5. There are many parishes without main drainage and in some a scheme is very much overdue owing to the increase of sanitary fitments, consequent increased overflow from 'septic tanks' and other disposal arrangements. This is particularly so at Church Hill, Donhead; Ludwell, Donhead; Tuckingmill, West Tisbury;

Introduction

1. The first part of the book is devoted to a general survey of the subject.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed study of the various aspects of the subject.

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and Zeals. There are other groups of houses which ought to be sewered although the urgency is not so great, and as no particular engineering difficulties are likely they should be included in the proposed post-war main drainage scheme. These localities are:-

- (i) Chilmark
- (ii) Teffont
- (iii) Berwick St. John
- (iv) Tollard Royal
- (v) Charlton, Donhead
- (vi) Hindon Road, Duck Street, Court Street, and Chicks Grove, Tisbury
(These should be related to an improved drainage scheme for Tisbury)
- (vii) The Green, Holloway and the Village, East Knoyle
- (viii) The Causeway, Mere
- (ix) Kilminster
- (x) Maiden Bradley (The existing scheme owned by the Duke of Somerset is presumably incapable of extension)

II. House Drainage

4 septic tanks were constructed to private houses. The septic tanks serving certain Council houses still have to be emptied as necessary by hand. Owing to difficulty in effluent disposal at Berwick St. John an additional tank was constructed. Disposal at West Knoyle is still causing difficulty. No new cesspools were constructed and no statutory action was required to have private cesspools emptied. The Council do not empty cesspools or remove night soil but a private firm operates in the district.

III. Public Cleansing

1. Scavenging. During 1944 there were 4 collections of refuse at Tisbury and 2 at Mere, Hindon and Semley. A comprehensive scheme for the collection and disposal of refuse from the Rural District as a whole is long overdue, and this was the subject of a special report to the Council on 26th June. No decision was taken, however, by the Council, the matter being indefinitely postponed. There is no collection in 22 parishes. The refuse tips are as previously reported in 1943. The Tisbury tip is rapidly filling up. The new tip acquired for Mere is being supervised as well as it can be without any labour detailed for the purpose.

Salvage. A separate collection of paper, iron, rags and bones has been continued, and the results are as set out in the following table:-

	1944	1943	Total for war
Clean mixed paper	104 tons	91 tons	403 tons
Scrap metal)		
(including baled tins)	105 "	36 "	850 "
Bones	8 "	8½ "	35 "
Rags	3½ "	3 "	10½ "
Rubber	5 "	7 "	20 "

The collection of rubber has now been discontinued and the yield of tins and paper is expected to decrease considerably both on account of an increase of these materials in general refuse, and the declining interest of the public to save waste materials. The above figures do not include salvage collected nor sold privately.

2. Verminous Premises and Persons

3 houses were disinfected on account of fleas. No infestation by bed bugs was found. One child was removed to hospital for treatment for scabies, and his room and bedding fumigated.

3. Rat & Mice Destruction

As it has not been possible to obtain a suitable rodent operative arrangements have been made with the Wilts War Agricultural Executive Committee for their pest destruction staff to deal with infestations in the district normally falling to the Council for attention under the Rat & Mice Destruction Act. This arrangement has not yet come fully into operation but should be successful in checking rodent infestations.

There were no nuisances requiring statutory action.

IV. Smoke Abatement

V. Sanitation of Special Premises

Schools - There have been no improvements.
Public Houses, Hotels - Improved drainage at one Inn has been obtained
Shops, etc. - There has been no statutory action taken.

Owing to the pressure of war-time work regular inspection of shops, food preparing premises, etc. has not been possible and a new survey is now overdue.

VI. Water Supply

It was necessary to report to the Council under Article 27 (3) respecting the contamination of the Teffont Water Supply. Instructions have now been given to have the course of this supply protected by fencing etc. Reports submitted by the Waterworks Manager show that the water from the Tisbury supply is not at all times satisfactory. A certain amount of control, however, can be maintained by chlorination.

The other public supplies were satisfactorily maintained.

4 samples were taken from private supplies. One taken for the special purpose of obtaining the flourine content to investigate dental disease at a private school showed no flourine whatever present which apparently is rare in a normal drinking water.

Another sample taken as part of an investigation to clear up the source of an outbreak of sore and septic throats was found to contain pathogenic staphylococci up to 100 colonies per 1 c.c. The well from which the latter sample was obtained has been closed.

The distribution of water supplies throughout the district remains as

reported in my annual report for 1941. The Waterworks Manager has, however, investigated and reported to the Council upon a proposed Comprehensive Water Supply for the rural district, and a consulting Engineer has been engaged to work out a detailed scheme. This scheme will make a public supply available over a wide area although some parishes will still be served by private owners. A satisfactory solution has not been found for the economical supply of water to Tollard Royal which is now dependent upon uncertain wells and rain water. It may be necessary to supply by means of additional machinery from Donhead.

VII. Meat and Other Foods

Centralised slaughtering at Salisbury and Sherborn has been continued by the Ministry of Food, and all home killed carcasses have been presumed inspected before entering the district. Nevertheless regular visits have been made to all butchers' premises and inspections of meat made from time to time. No butcher's meat was condemned on account of tuberculosis, and the usual table of post mortem data has therefore been omitted. The following was condemned as unfit for human food:-

Fish	70 lbs.
Pork	36 lbs.
Beef	476 lbs.

<u>Canned Foods</u>	Meat	59½ lbs.
	Fish	10 lbs.
	Miscellaneous Canned Foods	303½ lbs.

<u>Miscellaneous Food</u>	Preserves	12 lbs.
	Sugar	13½ lbs.
	Cheese	8 lbs.
	Other Food	9 lbs.

All the foregoing were voluntarily surrendered at the time of inspection, and no proceedings were taken.

VIII. Milk & Dairies Order, 1926. Food & Drugs Act, 1938

1. Total No. of dairymen registered at December 31st, 1944, and in operation (including producers, producers-retailers, and retailers)	320
2. No. of Retailers	70
3. No. of separate farms or dairies	336
4. No. of new dairies added in 1944	2
5. No. of reconstructions in 1944	9
6. No. of dairymen removed from Register or suspended by Council	Nil
7. No. of registrations lapsing due to change in occupation	31
8. No. of new registrations arising from change of occupation or first occupation	16
9. No. of notices served (verbal)	45

10. No. of notices complied with	45
11. No. of written notices served	6
12. No. of written notices complied with	6
13. No. of outstanding notices	Nil
14. Total No. of inspections made	515

Special Designations Order, 1935

No. of Licences in force:-

Tuberculin tested	13
Accredited	66
Pasteurised	<u>1</u>
	<u>80</u>

No. of separate designated Dairies 86

T.T. and Accredited - The mutual arrangement whereby I carry out the inspections and sampling on behalf of the Wilts County Council has continued, and the following table summarises the work:-

15. No. of visits to farms	191
16. No. of samples taken	185
17. No. which satisfied the Methylene Blue test and contained no B.Coli in 1/100th c.c	124
18. No. which failed the test	49
19. No. damaged or delayed in transit	12
20. No. of verbal notices given and complied with	55
21. No. of written notices served	12
22. No. of outstanding notices	Nil
(Statutory action is taken by the County Council)	

IX. Slaughter of Animals

No. of licences issued under the 1933 Act (renewals)	9
No. of new licences	<u>1</u>
	<u>10</u>

No. of legal proceedings were taken

X. Housing

A thorough survey of housing conditions is now overdue. The inspection and recording of housing defects has not been carried out since 1939 on account of the pressure of other work and an additional inspector will now be required to make the survey. At present it is only possible to do essential repairs owing to the operation of the Civil Building Control, and the acute shortage of labour and material. Thatchers are particularly in great demand and short supply.

Total No. of houses inspected under the Housing or Public Health Acts	77
No. of inspections made for the purpose	106
No. of houses recorded under the Housing Consol. Regs.	Nil
No. of houses found totally unfit for habitation	Nil
No. of defective houses	51
No. of informal notices served	51

No. of statutory notices served	1
No. of notices complied with	51
No. of notices outstanding (informal)	1
No. of overcrowding cases	1
No. of overcrowding cases remedied	1

XI. Factories Acts

No. of Factories on Register at end of 1944	47
No. of inspections made	40
Factories with Power	33
Factories without Power	14

It was not necessary to serve Statutory notices or take legal proceedings but in two cases the sanitary accommodation was found inadequate and was dealt with by informal action

XII. Infectious Diseases

Disease	Number Notified	Nursed at home	Removed to hospital	Disinfected
Scarlet fever	8	1	7	8
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-

The above figures represent cases of infectious diseases notified to the Sanitary Inspector by the Medical Officer or otherwise for action to be taken, and are not a record of all cases of notifiable diseases

XIII. Summary of all Inspections

Nature of Inspection	No. made
Complaints (Public Health)	74
Water Supply	20
Food premises (Bakehouses, etc.)	88
Farms, Dairies	515
Infectious diseases	10
Rats & Mice destruction	21
Factories	24
Housing	106
Nuisances	80
Verminous premises	15
Drain tests	14
Building byelaws	30
Sanitary Conveniences	28
Schools	8
Shops Act, 1934. Sec. 10	5
Council house repairs	126
Miscellaneous	109
Total	1273

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